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—† AN APPEAL †—

—by the—

Minisink Valley Historical Society.



TO THE PUBLIC :

Soliciting Contributions of Historical Interest, consisting of
books, pamphlets, documents, and any other
records pertinent to the purposes
of this Society.

THE Executive Committee of the MINISINK VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY solicit from their fellow-citizens donations of books, old newspapers, historical and family papers of every sort, genealogical tables, statistical information relative to the various trades manufactures and business interests of the territory to which their labors are principally confined, viz: the Counties of Orange, Sullivan and Delaware in New York, Sussex and Warren in New Jersey, and Pike, Monroe and Wayne in Pennsylvania.

The following heads will explain more in detail the objects of our inquiry:

1. Family papers, old receipts, letters, account books of the colonial or revolutionary times. Every paper, written or printed, which has been in the possession of a family for fifty years, may prove of service to the future historian, and our friends ought, on no account, to omit forwarding old letters, receipts or memoranda, because they deem them worthless.

2. Old deeds, charters, commissions to office, or land grants.

3. Maps of lands, streams, or field books of surveys.

4. Genealogies of families and their connections.

5. Biographical sketches of noted persons.

6. Extracts from old wills, showing historical facts or explaining curious and ancient customs. Also copies of old documents where the owners or custodians do not feel willing to part with the original.

7. Inscriptions on tomb stones; and these should be copied literally without altering the spelling or punctuation.

8. Legends or traditions of the several localities.

9. Books and files or single newspapers published in the district. It is particularly desired to secure files of old newspapers of the Counties above named; and a single copy of some paper may enable the Society to complete a portion of its collection under this head.

10. Extracts from rare books or records existing elsewhere, relating to our history.

11. Historical works which may facilitate the researches of the Society for the library.

12. Statistics of agriculture, manufactures and commerce, the mining, blue-stone, lumber and other important interests.

13. An account of the Railroad and Canal companies, the Stage-lines, the Turn-pike and Plank-road organizations, Ferries and Bridge companies, their rise and progress.

14. Portraits and drawings of objects of interest.

15. Poll and assessment lists, old muster rolls and minute or other books of the militia, particularly of the early periods of the country.

16. Relics of the colonial and revolutionary days; continental money and curious coins and tokens, and especially the money issued by village corporations, companies and individuals.



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17. Old public records and reports from persons who have had an opportunity of examining the county, town, church or other records, stating their present condition and the attention given to them by the custodians.

18. Descriptions of old churches, houses and memorable localities.

19. Lists of the public officers of former times, clergymen, principals of academies and schools, with date of entry into and retirement from office, and biographical notices of them.

A large number of valuable historical papers have doubtless perished in the last few years, and we invite all persons interested in the good name of their homes to unite with us in rescuing from destruction these materials for history, assuring them that all articles deposited with the Minisink Valley Historical Society will be carefully arranged for convenient reference and sacredly preserved for the desired ends. They will be accessible for literary purposes, and in the event of the dissolution of the Society, its collections will be deposited with the New York Historical Society and thus forever serve a public purpose.

We solicit papers relating to our objects to be read at the meetings of the Society which will be placed in its archives, and which may hereafter be published in pamphlet form with such other matters from our collections as may be deemed of sufficient value and interest.

The membership of the Society is open to all upon the annual payment of Two Dollars, upon receipt of which by the Treasurer, a certificate of membership will be furnished.

Donations should be forwarded to the Secretary or Treasurer at Port Jervis, or if more convenient, may be handed to one of the Executive Committee. The Secretary is instructed to acknowledge all donations to the Society.

Two regular yearly meetings of the Society will be held. One, the annual meeting for the election of officers, will be upon Washington's Birth-day, Feb. 22nd, and the other upon the Anniversary of the Minisink Battle, July 22nd. Other meetings will be held from time to time at the call of the Executive Committee.

The historical events which have transpired within our limits, and the many eminent men to whom this region of country has given birth, make it proper and even render it necessary to a correct understanding of history, that our local traditions, papers etc., should be carefully collected and preserved. Our older inhabitants whose minds are stored with traditions rich in the history of the past have mostly passed away, while letters and documents which are invaluable as mementoes of our past history are, in the extinction of families and divisions of estates, being lost and destroyed.

These painful facts bespeak the necessity of an organization such as is proposed by our Society, and we sincerely hope that the pride of the people in, and their patriotic love for, their homes will induce all cordially to assist us in carrying out the objects of this Society.



OFFICERS :

Rev. S. W. MILLS, President.

Dr. S. VAN ETTEN,
FRANCIS MARVIN, } Vice-Presidents.
MOSES L. COLE,
JNO. L. BONNELL, }

Dr. W. L. CUDDEBACK, Rec. Sec.

W. H. NEARPASS, Cor. Sec.

BENJ. VAN FLEET, }
O. P. HOWELL, } Ex. Com.
C. E. CUDDEBACK, }
H. H. FARNUM, }

Port Jervis, N. Y., April 30th, 1889.